

100 Days of Prayer

PREPARING THE WAY FOR THE LORD

WEEK 12 (April 12 - 18)

A Weekly Guide for 100 days of Praying to Prepare the Way for the Lord

Starting on January 25th, 2023 (Day 1), Culminating on May 4th, 2023 (Day 100)

KEY VERSES FOR THE WEEK: Mark 12:28-31 (NIV)

28 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

29 “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

REFLECTION: *Intimate Relationship*

Before the birth of every revival, there is a dark period when the Church has seemingly fallen asleep. This spiritual grogginess can take many forms. The Church may have slipped into all kinds of immorality, or it may have become bored and apathetic to God’s Word and His leading. Or, all too often, as in the case before the Great Awakenings in America, the Church as a whole forgot how to stay in intimate relationship with their God.

Jesus Himself made it very clear: the greatest commandment that should drive all the rest is the one to love God with every aspect of our being. A close second is the command to love others as much as we love ourselves. A loving relationship is what God desires most from us. And it is hardly one sided. As John 3:16 reminds us, God so loved the world that He sent His only son Jesus to suffer and die for us. He did this for us while we were still sinners. He has proven His love for us, for this world. But will we truly love Him?

One of the common themes of the 1st and 2nd Great Awakenings was a restoration of this truth that God wants to be in vital relationship with His people. Before each revival, the Church in America had fallen far away from this truth. It was all about doing your duty,

following the rules, fulfilling the rituals. At best, it was about offering sacrifices as a transaction to appease a demanding God. The messages at the pulpit lacked conviction and passion, and those in the pews responded with apathy towards a seemingly hard and distant deity. They had lost their first love.

The revivalists broke onto the scene with the message that God wanted a personal relationship with people. God wanted us to be in a living, breathing vibrant relationship with Him that engaged us in deep reflection and also passionate devotion. The message seemed revolutionary at the time. When the revivalists preached it from the established pulpits, many churches closed and locked their doors. The preachers then took it to the fields, where the regular folks gathered, and the people received it with great joy. It was good news!

Today, we find ourselves at a point in history when Christendom may have lost sight of the primacy of this personal connection with God. Other things have often been elevated above this love relationship: church traditions, moral legalism, denominational pride, doctrinal nitpicking, and corporate culture. We seem to have lost our way.

But, if we can heed the Word to return to our first love, then things can indeed turn around. Icy hearts can melt. Stony ground can become fertile soil. God stands ready to release a great revival if our hearts will humbly and desperately turn back to Him. To love Him more than anything else we find on the Internet, in our bank accounts, or on the mainstream news. Will we give our whole heart to Jesus this day?

PRAYER POINTS:

Use these suggested prayer items as a starting point for where the Holy Spirit will lead you...

1. Praise God that He is a personal God, interested in my life and your life.
2. Pray that the churches and individual believers in our area will re-assess and re-calibrate their priorities and values, if needed. Pray that we will not settle for anything less than what Christ died to give us: a restored, healed, and vibrant relationship with God.
3. Pray for boldness to be voices in our churches to call our church family to awaken to what God is doing in revival worldwide. May our conversations be peppered with talk of Asbury and the Jesus Movement and Great Awakenings!
4. Pray for the spreading of news of revival and the Korean intercessors in our city. Pray for many people to hear and be excited about the events during the week of the National Day of prayer (May 2nd-7th). Pray for a deeper love for Christ, especially since we just had Easter.
5. Pray again specifically that many more translators for the Korean prayer teams would offer their time and skill during that week in each of the 40 USA cities. These translators are needed to personally interact with the Koreans every day as well as to help communicate during the large group events. We are in dire need of teams of volunteers in Charlotte and elsewhere. With only 3 weeks away, please pray for God's provision!

FOR MORE INFO ON THESE GUIDES:

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Or Visit: www.thinkrevival.com/cpr2023/